

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 April 2021 9:03 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Submission ... The Australian War Memorial Expansion Project. Views Related to ...

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I recently visited the AWM for the first time in a number of months. Increasingly I find the only times I visit is in response to a request from someone via "Find-a-grave" wanting to have a picture of a relative's plaque on one of the Remembrance Walls overlooking the Reflecting Pool.

This time I looked at the Memorial from the front and again realized how appropriate it is in its setting. It seems to be exactly where it should be and existing just as it was meant to be. It radiates history, calm and almost demands reflection from the visitor. Reflection on the interaction of human with human and human with nature. In light of the current proposals to expand so unnecessarily so much of it for so little gain there seems to be an extra aura of melancholy about it. The last expansion in the early 2000s sits discretely in the rear and does not detract from the original AWM in the least.

This visit just confirms for me that the current proposed project should not/not be given the stamp of approval by the NCA. It needs to be stopped now and sent back to the contemplation stage before any further harm to the AWM, to the broader setting in which it is positioned, in fact to damaging any further this iconic building at all. Looking afield just a bit further, in my mind the nearby Campbell High School Building and site would be a much better location for any of the bigger military displays that those so minded might want to see. It is very near to the Memorial with I would think lots of space to bring as much of the big stuff from Mitchell as might be wanted. In fact, those big military artifacts currently sitting outside the AWM could be moved just across the road to join such a grouping there. Using some of this area for an annex (or somewhere similar) would also be much less costly and damaging to the AWM.

Considering some relatively nearby area, as opposed to damaging the AWM and its setting itself, would satisfy any need for more "big stuff" near to the AWM while at the same time avoiding damage to the AWM and its current ambience. This, along with making better use of some of the already existing internal AWM space would, in my view, provide more than enough area to highlight current missions and conflicts.

I appreciate the opportunity to make comments on this proposal. I do hope that the NCA will add luster to its institutional history by helping to encourage the Federal Government to have some rethink regarding this expensive, unnecessary and damaging project.

Regards, Steve Flora, [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Submission Regarding Australian War Memorial Redevelopment

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Orange category

I would like to submit an additional comment regarding the proposed Australian War Memorial Redevelopment currently on the NCA's agenda. I say "additional" because I submitted one previously, but that focused upon the negative aspects to the built structure of the current Memorial, the damage that the proposed work would commit, in my view, on the current iconic structure and its role in the capital.

Since that submission, the full impact of the proposal on the natural setting that currently exists around the AWM has become clear. The wholesale clearing of impressive, mature, healthy native trees ... up to 160 of them I've seen listed in itself will damage the setting immediately around the Memorial as well as impacting how the Memorial is seen from a distance, i.e., from the focal points all along ANZAC Parade, from the lake (both sides), from Old Parliament House as well as from New Parliament House. What is now an iconic monument appearing at one with its natural setting, blending into the base of Mount Ainsley, will be torn from that setting and made stark for years to come. A tree canopy and setting that has evolved since 1941 is not magically developed overnight.

This short-sighted and damaging concept needs to be sent back to an earlier stage and more thought given to just what is being proposed here. And these "early works" need to be halted and reconsidered. There are other ways to deal with whatever needs the AWM thinks exist. Trashing the current AWM in this blind fashion will be looked upon with sadness in the future.

Steve Flora  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Mark Lynch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** I express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.  
  
**Categories:** Orange category

*I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.*

*I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.*

*I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.*

[Stop the War Memorial redevelopment | ACT Greens](#)



## Stop the War Memorial redevelopment | ACT Greens

Your email can simply say: I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial. I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation ...

[greens.org.au](http://greens.org.au)

National Capital Authority  
[WAconsultation@nca.gov.au](mailto:WAconsultation@nca.gov.au)

## **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL (BLOCK 3 SECTION 39 CAMPBELL) - PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT AND 'EARLY WORKS' SHOULD NOT PROCEED**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposal for 'early works' for proposed redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial.

I am writing as an Australian Citizen and resident of Canberra to express my OPPOSITION to the 'early works' proposed for the Australian War Memorial.

The aim of 'early works' is to prepare a site for construction. In this case, I understand that the proposal for construction has not been formally considered by the NCA let alone been approved.

I consider that:

- there should be no 'early works' at the Australian War Memorial and that any 'early works' in train should be immediately stopped;
- any redevelopment proposed for the Australian War Memorial (both overall and 'early works') must involve thorough, pro-active community consultation;
- the old eucalypts and (as I understand it) memorial tree-plantings that surround the area should be prioritised and preserved;
- the NCA should:
  - defer consideration of the proposed 'early works' until it has received formal applications (such as for Works Approval) from the Memorial for the rest of the proposed redevelopment project and
  - then consider all components of the proposed project as a single package; and
- the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on these issues.

The proposed demolition of Anzac Hall, removal of trees, and excavation are irrevocable and inseparable from the proposed redevelopment project as a whole and should therefore be rejected and be considered as part of the total package, not slipped through as an 'early works'. Designating the proposed steps as 'early works' is an abuse of due process and an insult to standing of the NCA and to the Parliament that established both it and the Memorial.

The proposed 'early works' would cause permanent damage to the Heritage-listed Memorial and its surrounds, affecting central elements of Canberra.

The setting of the Australian War Memorial is an integral part of both the Memorial and Canberra and needs to be maintained. The trees proposed for removal as part of the proposed 'early works' are old or (as I understand it) memorial trees that contribute both landscape setting for the whole Memorial and habitat for local fauna. Furthermore, the Preliminary Arboriculture Assessment pdf indicates that most of the trees 'likely to be removed' are in 'good' or 'very good' condition.

The proposed massive excavation south of the existing Southern Entrance and across the Parade Ground would fundamentally change the look and setting of the Memorial.

To remove the trees and to conduct excavations on the scale proposed for the 'early works' and 'redevelopment' would destroy key elements of both the Memorial and its setting as well as the broader city. It would also be contrary to the biodiversity preservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation goals for the city. In summary, it would be wanton vandalism on a scale which would change the look of the Memorial, scar the city for decades to come and make the Memorial a far less attractive place to visit. Such works cannot therefore possibly be considered unobtrusive and reversible 'early works'.

It is disturbing to learn that the Australian War Memorial is encouraging the NCA to indulge in 'approving 'early works' of such magnitude that it would be essentially impossible for the NCA not to approve the whole proposed project when the time comes.

On this note, I also consider that the overall proposed re-development of the Australian War Memorial is not justified on any grounds and that the money involved would be better spent on almost any other purpose (except war, for which it appears the proposed re-development is priming us). In my work and travel recently along the east coast of Australia I have not spoken to one person who supports - or knows anyone who supports - the proposed re-development. From my discussions, I think it important to inform you that this viewpoint is shared by traumatised Veterans. This is on top of the opposition by relevant professional organisations (such as architects), community groups and individuals, many of which have already made their views known publicly.

The Australian War Memorial was established with the very clear purpose of providing a space for commemorating and memorialising the people killed in wars, as well as reflecting on war and its impact on Australian society and people. The Memorial's own publications make it clear that it is not to be 'a general museum portraying war, much less one glorifying it'.

Any change to the Australian War Memorial from a space of reflection to an expansive museum showcasing military hardware would be contrary to this purpose.

Furthermore, if the NCA approves such a change it would be facilitating a dramatic shift in the symbolic representation of Australian life and values away from one which sees war as a destructive, traumatic and sorrowful evil that should be avoided towards one that instead normalises, celebrates and glorifies war.

The proposed 'early works' for the Australian War Memorial are to dramatically change both the Memorial and irrevocably alter its setting in order to enable the huge expansion and change of focus of the Memorial for just such purposes. It is therefore imperative that the NCA reject this proposal at this stage in order to keep the National Capital as a symbol of Australia's national life and values.

I look forward to a favourable response: starting with not allowing any 'early works'.

Gillian King

**From:** Gillian King [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 7:45 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Australian War Memorial (Block 3 Section 39 Campbell) - proposed redevelopment and 'early works' should not proceed  
**Attachments:** War Memorial - redevelopment early works submission - G King.docx  
**Categories:** Orange category

Dear NCA

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal for 'early works' for proposed redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial.

I oppose the proposal and attach my submission stating this and outlining the reasons why.

I look forward to hearing from you and in particular that the NCA has rejected the proposal.

Yours sincerely

Gillian King

Sent from my solar-powered computer

*Let's #BuildBackBetter so we can bounce forwards and not back(wards)*

*In our changing climate, we're all affected so we need to be all in on the action!*

*I acknowledge that I live, meet and work on the land of First Nations people and that sovereignty was never ceded. I pay respect to their Elders (past, present and emerging), and acknowledge the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within the Australian community.*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 2:39 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** AWM

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

This expansion must not go ahead - its true, albeit hidden, purpose runs counter to the original rationale for this place.

**From:** Carolyn Brooks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Objection to AWM development application

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Dear NCA,

My father was a prisoner of the Germans in WW2 and he is included in a photo in the Prisoners in Europe section of the AWM. I remember well the day he discovered that photo and have been proud to show other family members in the years since. Not proud because he was there, but because he survived and he contributed much to his fellow POWs and then to his community. I attended 2 reunions for relatives of Stalag 18A prisoners in recent years, which were important opportunities for we offspring to learn more of the difficulties our parents suffered. This knowledge has confirmed the horror, waste and futility of war for me. Growing up in the largest soldier settler area of the nation, I was also very aware of the ongoing suffering and dysfunction brought about by war, not only for the participants, but for their families and community.

Since the announcement of the proposal for this very expensive development project, I find that I want nothing to do with the AWM. I feel only anger and resentment as I pass the building now. Knowing that:

- much of the additional infrastructure will be hosted by weapons manufacturers
- the proposal goes against the mission of the AWM and the NCA and seems to lack community consultation or support
- an reasonably new existing building and many trees will be demolished
- the focus will be on the more recent dubious wars Australia has been involved in and present more as a theme park than a place for contemplation
- military personnel who have returned from war zones in recent years have not and do not receive sufficient support
- other important institutions in the capital are currently vastly underfunded. This reinforces the lack of understanding that the arts, humanities and general history are essential to informing and inspiring future leaders to develop new strategies for the survival of our species.
- the AWM is not in tune with contemporary Australia. In my opinion and many others, if changes are to be made, the AWM should be more inclusive of both indigenous people and women and generally focus on human stories rather than military equipment
- at this point in time, the message sent by the institutions of our national capital should focus on global cooperation and respect for our environment
- I believe that the powerful global weapons industry generates much of the wealth in the world for a small minority while it initiates much discord and destruction

Most sincerely,  
Carolyn Brooks



**From:** Belinda Barnard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Submission for consultation with respect to Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War Memorial

**Categories:** Orange category

I am writing as a lifetime resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the Australian War Memorial.

I understand that the need, scope, cost, purpose and value for money of the proposed works on this site have been considered by the Public Works Committee.

However, I am deeply concerned about the approach to this project and the early works application currently before the NCA for consideration.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped and that any further redevelopment of this site should be preceded by a more comprehensive engagement with the affected communities.

I also believe that the eucalypts that surround the area should be preserved as a matter of priority.

Those trees, and the grounds of the current Memorial, are an important part of the peace, dignity and contemplation that the bush setting provides.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Belinda Barnard  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Info  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 12:25 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: WAR MEMORIAL UPGRADE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

**OFFICIAL**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 11:16 AM  
**To:** Info <[info@nca.gov.au](mailto:info@nca.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** WAR MEMORIAL UPGRADE

I WANT TO REGISTER MY STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE PLANNED 'UPGRADE' OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL IN CAMPBELL

ALL WORK NEEDS TO CEASE UNTIL AUSTRALIANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A REASONABLE CHANCE TO COMMENT AND MAKE SUBMISSIONS

THE FACT THAT NUMEROUS HERITAGE EXPERTS OPPOSE THE UPGRADE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY.

IN ADDITION, REMOVAL OF OVER 100 MATURE TREES IS SACRILEGE. THESE TREES ARE LOVED AND VALUED BY CANBERRANS AND VISITORS ALIKE. THEY HAVE HERITAGE VALUE AND SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE THE SITE.

THE NCA NEEDS TO HALT ALL DEVELOPMENT ON THIS SITE AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF COMMUNITY OPPOSITION.

SINCERELY

MARGARET ATCHERLEY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**OFFICIAL**

**From:** Benedicte O'Leary Rutherford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 9:46 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Benedicte O'Leary Rutherford

**From:** Andy Wright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 4:33 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Redevelopment work at AWM

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

*To Who it may Concern*

*I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my concern about some of the works proposed at the Australian War Memorial.*

*As a resident and a veteran I am unsure that the AWM has the community support it seems to believe. With this in mind I feel work should cease until community consultation is actually prioritised.*

*And of course the NCA should be ready to release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.*

*Kind regards*

*Andrew Wright*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 9:27 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** WA submission

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom it may concern

I wish to raise my objection to the extension of the War Memorial. I have a son in the armed forces and am appalled that the War Memorial is spending such an extraordinary amount of money on an extension when this money could be far better used to support our current service men and women and returning vets.

The memorial should remain as such "a memorial" and it turned into a museum - if extra room is needed for museum type displays, this money could be better spent building a Museum for this purpose rather than tearing down parts of the existing memorial.

I am also upset at the proposed removal of 100 old trees that have been on the grounds since the War Memorial was built. The memorial and grounds are a place of quiet reflection and memory for those who have served, have died and their families.

It is shocking that the NCA is proposing to approve this proposal which will destroy this sacrosanct site.

Please do not approve this terrible proposal and please listen to the community, including veteran and defence community who do not support this. This money should be going to support returning vets and dealing with and preventing the large no of suicides and issues facing these service men and women.

Regards  
Concerned serviceman family member

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** David Roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 24 April 2021 7:50 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** War Memorial Proposal

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Apart from the fact that the War Memorial proposal is terrible in the first instance and promotes the glorification of War rather than for the purpose of remembering those that were lost in Wars, the proposed "early works" in this farcical process include:

- The demolition of Anzac Hall
- The removal of most of the mature eucalypts in the Memorial grounds, over 100 trees in all, including all those at the front of the Memorial
- The 'bulk excavation' of a large area around the Memorial entrance
- The demolition of Anzac Hall is inseparable from the project as a whole - indeed the project depends upon it happening - and it should be considered as part of the total package, not snuck through as an 'early work'.
- The Preliminary Arboriculture Assessment pdf shows the trees 'likely to be removed', most of them in 'good' or 'very good' condition. This is wanton vandalism on a scale which would change the look of the Memorial for decades to come. It cannot possibly be considered an 'early work'.
- The proposed massive excavation south of the existing Southern Entrance and across the Parade Ground would fundamentally change the look of the Memorial and cannot possibly be considered an 'early work'.
- Designating these steps as 'early works' is an abuse of process, a travesty, and an insult to the NCA and to the Parliament that established it. These 'early works' will cause permanent damage to the Heritage-listed Memorial and its surrounds.
- The Memorial is encouraging the NCA to indulge in 'salami slicing', approving 'early works' of such importance that it will be impossible for the NCA not to approve the whole project when the time comes.
- The NCA should defer consideration of these 'early works' until it has received a Works Approval applications from the Memorial for the rest of the project. It could then consider all components of the project as a single package.

The War Memorial proposal will ruin the Anzac Parade vista and alter the meaning of Anzac Parade for ever - shame on the person who dreamt up this awful revision to the War Memorial.  
The C/W government should hold its head in shame for allowing this 'development'.

--  
David Roberts, MSc, PhD  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Leon Le Leu [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** War memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am rather disgusted with the wastefulness of the proposed War Memorial Redevelopment and the way it seems to have been rushed through: the rushing through might just be my impression but I strongly suspect it was. I do not think the proposed changes are in the Spirit of the War Memorial. It is not meant to be some sort of theme park. Veterans who are suffering as a result of war-related problems will find nothing in the proposed expansion which will help them.

The early works must be immediately stopped. The demolition of the ANZAC Hall is a pure disgrace and should be avoided at all costs. The natural setting of the War Memorial should be preserved by leaving alone trees that are there now, Trees are never properly replaced in such a project; they are replaced with seedlings that take many years to get to the corresponding maturity of the trees they replace.

None of the written material I have seen about the project justifies it. Who are we trying to memorialise? Our fighting people or administrators/architects, /politicians?

This is a colossal waste of money.

You need to publish all submissions you receive including this one.

Leon Le Leu  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Robert Warn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 8:38 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** AWM Upgrade

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I thoroughly support the expansion.

Robert C Warn  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Jamie Sharpe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission regarding the redevelopment project at the Australian War Memorial

**Categories:** Orange category

To whom it may concern,

I am a veteran of 15 years in the Australian Regular Army, and a descendant of two WW2 veterans, a Great War veteran, and a Boer War veteran. I have visited the AWM on several occasions, which included visits with young soldiers under training.

In the past, I have found key structures of the AWM to be ideal places for reflection; moreso the Commemorative Area than the collection. While I find the contents of Anzac Hall not that inspiring, the building itself is a credit to its designers and the AWM itself.

**I am deeply opposed to the redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial for the following reasons:**

- From the AWM website, its purpose is to "*commemorate the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war or on operational service and those who have served our nation in times of conflict. Its mission is leading remembrance and understanding of Australia's wartime experience.*" I believe that the AWM already does this in its current state and that there is no real need for major redevelopment works.
- Anzac Hall, barely 20 years old, is an already-significant tribute; a beautiful building that does not deserve to be destroyed.
- The destruction of 116 mature eucalyptus trees overlooking the parade ground is tragic, heartbreaking and unwarranted. The idea that they are in any way replaceable is farcical.
- I firmly and wholeheartedly believe that the \$500,000,000 allocated to the project would be better spent in other areas - the environment, climate change mitigation, and of course veterans' welfare.
- My understanding is that the AWM wants more space to display more of the big artefacts representing recent conflicts, and to "heal" veterans. Apparently the ambition is to provide a "therapeutic milieu" for veterans. Seriously, this reasoning is utter nonsense. It is unreasonable to suggest that a veteran might be healed by looking at a big gun, or an aircraft, or an armoured vehicle that they were inside when it was blown up. Without going into the detail of my own personal experience of tragedy while a soldier, I can tell you that this is not the way healing happens.
- While we are collectively reeling over the findings from the Afghanistan Inquiry Report (the Brereton Report), which has shamed not only our Army, but indeed our nation, now is not the time for grandiose extensions to the AWM. Give it at least another 20 years I reckon!
- What would Charles Bean think?

As a veteran, I see this whole project as an embarrassing exercise in vanity. It beggars belief, and is a slap in the face to veterans, that while the Commonwealth opposed the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, this redevelopment project seems to have had smooth passage.

I feel that if the government wishes to build a theme park to show off military hardware to tourists and warmongers, it should do this somewhere other than at the AWM.

If this project goes ahead, I vow never to visit the AWM again, and will urge others not to do so for the reasons listed above.

**Please do not proceed with the destruction of Anzac Hall and the trees overlooking the parade ground.**

Regards,

Jamie Sharpe

[REDACTED]

**From:** WorksApproval  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 March 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** FW: Community Consultation - Block 3 Section 39 Campbell (AWM) - Early Works Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

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**From:** Lyndon Megarry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 March 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** WorksApproval <WorksApproval@nca.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Community Consultation - Block 3 Section 39 Campbell (AWM) - Early Works Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Works Approval team,

I refer to the Early Works Application for Block 3 Section 39 Campbell (AWM).

The current NCA consultation process has been designed to avoid or dismiss discussion of the overall need and cost of the Australian War Memorial Development Project. But the need and cost of the Australian War Memorial Development Project goes to the heart of why many Australian citizens object to the proposal. At present, the Memorial appropriately commemorates the Australians who served in times of war, and requires no major expansion or extension.

The NCA is asked to approve a range of "Early Works", but how can the demolition of Anzac Hall, the mass removal of trees and a bulk excavation of a large area around the entrance of the Memorial be described as "early works"? They are, in fact, "substantial works". Surely, it would be preferable for the NCA to consider the development proposal as a whole?

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lyndon Megarry



**From:** Margaret Smythe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:21 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** Donelle Wheeler [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Australian War Memorial

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I write in relation to the early works approval being sought by the AWM to prepare for extensions yet to be approved by the NCA.

I totally disapprove of the extension. It is a huge waste of money, unwanted by most , including veterans. If truth be told it is a monument to Prime Ministerial ego.

But leaving that aside, the ‘pre-approval’ represents a blatant disregard for proper process, is wantonly destructive and presupposes that NCA approval will be forthcoming. If there is no such presupposition, irremediable damage to the War Memorial and its environment will be caused for no reason at all.

Please do your best to stop the works.

Donelle Wheeler



Sent from my iPad

**From:** Lyn Valentine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 April 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Cc:** Brenda Parkes  
**Subject:** Comments on Development Plans for the Australian War Memorial

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Dear Ms Sally Barnes

We would like to add our voices to the hundreds who have already provided cogent and rational reasons to reject the Australian War Memorial (AWM) expansion. These objections have come from war veterans, architectural experts, heritage experts, peace activists, notable military historians and many others who care deeply about Australia's capacity to respectfully commemorate our war dead. They and we do not see this as an appropriate expansion and/or an appropriate use of Government funds.

The AWM has a perfectly adequate space at Mitchell to show off their large equipment. All other cultural institutions have been forced to meet their cultural obligations within reduced budgets by being creative and making better use of their exhibition space.

While this expansion has received bipartisan support in Parliament we believe this support was not made in full knowledge of the breadth and depth of expert and community opposition to the redevelopment. I trust you will exercise your independent statutory power to consider the opposing arguments in taking your final decision.

I (Lynette) served in the Australian Regular Army for 20 years and prior to that in the Australian Army Reserve for three years.

Yours sincerely

Lynette Valentine  
Brenda Parkes  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Mark O'Brien [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 12:47 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Upgrade.  
  
**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Good afternoon,

It is very sad to see that amount of wasted public fund, that will benefit a very small part of society. Given the rise is mental illness of adf personal, but that is hard for political parties to address, and hence building bigger structures are Easy.

Really disappointing.

Wouldn't it better spend of a real traumatic suffers of war/or military.

The environment effects are not being understood by the director- always a worry. Cut down a 200 year old tree, plant 2 instead— wow.. carbon benefits- how does a lack of intelligence get a high pay package..

Kind regards

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Emily Birks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 24 April 2021 6:05 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Don't cut down the trees!

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Hi NCA,

Please, please don't cut down over 100 trees in order to support the expansion of the war memorial.

I am a resident of Canberra who is STRONGLY opposed to early works removing these essential trees. Canberra is known as the 'bush capital' - there are dozens of native animals, birds and insects that rely on these trees as their homes and their food source.

Sure, the war Memorial say they'll plant new ones, but those won't get to the same maturity for decades, and you wipe out the opportunity for the existing ones to be closer to developing essential hollows for birds and animals to live in.

I urge you to stop these works, and that further development should protect the trees.

I know you probably don't care and you'll go ahead anyway because hey, money's more important than the environment, but I want my opinion recorded.

Please don't allow them to cut down the trees.

Sincerely,  
Emily Birks.

WAconsulting,  
National Capital Authority,  
Parks, ACT.

**Re:** Works Application, b3/s39 Campbell.  
The Australian War Memorial

Dear Sir/Ms,

I write to express my objection to the proposed demolition works at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). I believe that the approval of the proposed demolition application will lead to the extended construction of the AWM that will not meet the prescribed functions of both the AWM and the National Capital Authority (NCA)

The AWM is firstly and primarily a Memorial. That it is its heritage. When erected it gave reverence to and a place for reflection about those who suffered and succumbed to the horrors of First World War (WW1). The Second World War (WW2), that had to address the failures of the peace settlement of WW1, quickly followed and the AWM was readily able serve its prime purpose for these two world wars.

The selected location was in Nation's Capital. For visitors, it would be a sense of pilgrimage to the shrine to their fallen friends and relatives. The AWM's elevated location at the end of the North-South axis of the Capital is a unambiguous statement about its very important role in defining the character of the Nation.

From 1950s, Australia then entered into a number of international conflicts. However, I believe that the current building remains perfectly suitable for visitors to reflect and consider these conflicts. The AWM should be a site for the Nation to have a fully integrated and open accounting of war and the military. Instead the heroic legend of the military that is on display at AWM continues to obscure the brutal reality of the damage of war.

The AWM has now taken on a political role to popularise these conflicts. Historians are readily able to hold and tell the truth of these conflicts, but a series of political intrusions into the affairs of the AWM are intended to lessen the truth by celebrating veterans both deceased and surviving, and creating a massive museum space for the display of the machines of destruction.

The previous Director, who instigated the proposed additions, did so from a position of conflicting interest. He was the Minister for Defence, when Australian forces were sent to invade Iraq and Afghanistan. He has a personal interest to tell the story of these grossly failed conflicts in such a unquestioning manner. The obvious politicking of such an important building makes a statement about the future of Australia, that I believe many of the causalities and veterans of WW1 & 2 would reject. They fought for their country on foreign soils, but they did so in the hope that such horrors would not be repeated. The creation of a Museum to War eulogises the armament suppliers and the instigators of war, not the participants. The conversion of such a sensitive memorial to a popularist museum is contrary to the purpose of the AWM.

The NCA's role is to maintain and enhance the character of the National Capital, so that the City will reflect the values of the Nation. The legacy of all the responsible and excellent work that NCA, and its predecessors, have undertaken to design and construct such a fine capital city will be notably shrunk if the AWM is permitted to expand as a Museum to War and political self-interest. I believe that the NCA should refuse the application, as approving the proposed works would be abrogating one of its main purposes.

Yours faithfully,  
Alan Morschel, architect.

30 April 2021.



**Alan Morschel.** 90 Hilder Street (P.O. Box 3019) Weston, A.C.T., 2611, Australia.  
t. 0409 826 808 , email. [morschel5@bigpond.com.au](mailto:morschel5@bigpond.com.au)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 5:49 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** please don't

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Dear NCA,

Obscene is the only word to describe the plan to expand the AWM, knock down the award-winning annex which was only built recently and cut down all those trees. Please don't allow it. The men and women who sacrificed everything for us and whose memory the institution is supposed to honour would be utterly appalled and disgusted. Other wonderful and vital national institutions in our capital are in desperate need of this kind of largesse. Please do all you can to persuade the powers that be to spend the funds on them instead.

Most sincerely,  
Kate Murphy

**From:** Ian Ross [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 2:06 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Feedback on redevelopment project at the Australian War Memorial (AWM)  
  
**Categories:** Orange category

Dear NCA People,

My comments relate to the early works associated with the redevelopment project at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

While I understand that construction of new components will form part of a future works approval application, these early works will do irretrievable damage to the site and must be halted to enable the project to be reconsidered.

The Australian War Memorial has been successful in commemorating Australian military service and sacrifice. The overwhelming catastrophe of the Great War's impact on Australians was and should be the central focus of the memorial. Nothing else compares.

The commemoration of Australian participation in other wars has also been generally well presented and the scale and structure of the entire Anzac Parade precinct has been appropriate.

The human scale of the current memorial is essential. One exception is the Hall of Valour where the grand size of the space is valuable in representing the sacrifice of our veterans. The second exception is the Aircraft Hall and the related (existing) Anzac Hall where the bulky presence of the machinery of war can be represented. But machinery should never become the main focus.

The proposed destruction and replacement of Anzac Hall will completely unbalance the scale of the memorial and lose the defining aspect of commemoration. The NCA has a responsibility to protect that purpose. The destruction of many trees and an award-winning building goes against that responsibility.

The installation of a large warehouse of hardware distorts the memorial away from commemoration of world wars and their far-reaching impacts on generations of Australians.

It gives undue weight to machinery over people and recent relatively smaller conflicts over the catastrophes of the past for which the AWM was established. These machines can continue to be kept at the Treloar Annex or museums for aircraft and other equipment. They can also be displayed online.

I understand that the need for the expansion and the cost of the development are not matters for the National Capital Authority to reconsider.

But it is the NCA's responsibility to protect Canberra as the symbol of Australian national life and values. In particular, I am appealing to the Authority to protect the role of the Australian War Memorial in the commemoration of Australian military service and sacrifice. The design of these early works and the massive construction that will follow, are likely to destroy the original purpose of the memorial.

Sincerely,

Ian Ross  
[REDACTED]



**From:** gang-gang in Canberra, 15 March '17 Chapman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 9:17 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

The present war memorial is deeply loved and celebrated by Australians.... dont change whats already working.

Sincerely,  
Tina Hollis.

**From:** gang-gang in Canberra, 15 March '17 Chapman  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 10:54 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Opposition to War Memorial redevelopment.  
  
**Categories:** Orange category

I am a resident of Canberra, and have lived here since 2007.

I remember being taken to the Canberra tourist attractions, in the months after I arrived, by friends, and the pride and delight they felt, showing me the War Memorial is as much my memory as the War Memorial itself.

I'm unable to understand why approval would have been given to in any way change this beautifully designed building and surrounding environment.

I agree with the outrage I hear all around me from everybody that if honest community consultation had taken place, those instrumental in wanting to implement these changes would've met with a resounding "No!", and obviously that's why full honest community consultation didn't take place.

This is our War Memorial. It's the people's.

And we love it.

And we don't agree to the proposed changes.

I am strenuously opposed to all aspects of the redevelopment, I ask for the immediate protection of all trees on the site and that Anzac Hall be untouched.

I would like the NCA to publicly respond to all the submissions it will receive.

Sincerely,  
Tina Hollis.

**From:** Graham Freeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

I do not see the point to spending half a billion dollars on the redevelopment. The War Memorial is a wonderful tribute to the loss of life of our soldiers in our wars. The last thing we need is a hall for big weapons. That is not why the memorial was built in the first place and is completely at odds with its continuing purpose.

Graham

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Douglas Hynd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2021 8:50 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

NCA

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my strong opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial. This proposal has been a bad idea from the start and is getting progressively worse as implementation proceeds.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised. These trees go back to the beginning of the memorial and should be treated with respect due to their linkage with the founding of the memorial.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

regards

Doug Hynd

[REDACTED]

**From:** John Blount [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 8:24 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** AWM Extension

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

I am concerned about the preliminary works, not only for the specific and valid reasons widely canvassed about their immediate impact, but because they would lead almost inevitably to the highly controversial substantive 'extensions' to the AWM – including the demolition of a significant part of the existing structure.

The preparatory works are an integral part of the overall (yet to be approved) proposal, and are therefore premature.

At issue is whether the AWM is to be a place of commemoration and reflection, or a museum of armaments. It does not need large items of hardware but rather the stories of the men and women involved.

Making more and more space for bigger and bigger hardware is not the function of a War Memorial, but of a Military Museum – not the same thing ! Such a Museum could and should be housed elsewhere.

Regards

John Blount  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Clive Hamilton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** AWM Redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

Dear Sir or Madam

I have been visiting the War Memorial, on occasions, for 60 years, including as an anti-war protester in the early 1970s and in more recent times with my grandchildren. It has maintained its ethos as a place of quiet contemplation of the war dead and the meaning, or absence of meaning, of their sacrifice.

The same appreciation of the sacrifice of young lives made me eager as President of Friends of Manuka Pool to oversee the restoration of the neglected Honour Board at the pool which commemorated the deaths of nine young men who were closely associated with the pool in the 1930s. To unveil the restored Honour Board, we held a simple, solemn and moving ceremony attended by top ranks from the ADF.

It has therefore been of considerable concern to me in recent years to see the AWM increasingly Disneyfied under the leadership of Dr Nelson. The cheapening of the Memorial's ethos in the interests of a barely veiled glamour is a trend that I know would have appalled my grandfather, who was wounded and gassed at Gallipoli and the Western Front, where his two brothers were killed.

The proposed massive redevelopment of the AWM is perhaps the biggest step-change in the memorialisation of the war dead, and represents a shift from solemnity and quiet thanks, to a place where the geewizzery of military hardware is shown off.

Dr Nelson was fond of saying that the AWM is the 'soul of the nation'. If we were to accept that proposition, then the Director of the AWM becomes the keeper of the soul of the nation. Such a self-image is liable to give rise to megalomania.

The proposed \$500 million spend is a waste of public funds that would be far better spent on veterans or, indeed, on the preservation of the thousands of small memorials across Australia where the ethos of tragic sacrifice lives on.

Sincerely

Clive Hamilton

**From:** Elizabeth Geisslet [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 7:25 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Margot Firth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 March 2021 5:39 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Proposed War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

Hello

I would like to express my deep concern for the proposed redevelopment of the Australian War Memorial on three levels.

The cost, the plans and the purpose are all questionable.

1: The cost of \$500M to the Australian Tax Payer (and I place capital letters here because this is a real person, in fact many who are struggling with existence in climate of turbulence) is far beyond what our Australian budget can afford at present or even ever.

How better would it be to spend money in a more positive way on the said Tax Payer who volunteered time and quality of life to defend this country or support a returned defence personnel managing life after conflict.

2: The plans are questionable. The disregard of heritage, environment (felling 60 mature trees for construction site room), the lack of understanding of use of the existing ANZAC Hall a mere 20 years young.

3: The biggest question for me is purpose. Your glowing report on this construction, talks of better displaying and honouring more recent conflicts.

No amount of room could contain the flotsam and jetsam we as a Nation, collect and store, to 'remember' conflicts. I am a granddaughter of an ANZAC and proudly keep all that I can find of his records and photos, to one day share with my extended family. This action is repeated in almost every Australian household.

The Australian War Memorial is a memorial, not a museum! If you must- build a museum somewhere else, don't glorify war and conflict.

Surely today we know that we want peace. We want those who have been so badly scared by conflict and their families, to heal and find peace.

Think, what can you do for the people of Australia, those Tax Payers and those to come?

Thank you  
Margot Firth

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Rachel Mills [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 12:03 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Please keep the War Memorial as a solemn place of reflection on those we lost.  
Barbara Burns  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Mark Deasy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** National Security Implications of the AWM expansion

**Categories:** Orange category

Like many I am calling for the NCA to desist with its plans for a \$500m expansion of the AWM.

For decades now, as an ex-army officer I have been disappointed at the degeneration of a once solemn memorial to loss and waste of war into a military Disneyland.

The suggestion that this extention is necessary to assist veterans 'heal' by displaying war materiel is ludicrous. There is precisely no need for a memorial to 'tell the story' of ex-service members. The gear can be preserved and displayed elsewhere.

This week the head of ASIO finally said the quiet bits out loud and even put a date on when he expects a Right Wing terrorist incident to occur in Australia. 12 months. (Of course he said that Islamic extremism *could* be the cause, but we all know he is treading a fine line between being open about genuine threats and alienating the LNP base so put the Muslims in the cross hairs to appease the govt).

I urge everyone involved in this project to reflect on the conditions that pertained 100 years ago when the AWM was delayed by 14 years after the end of WW1. There were hundreds of thousands of demobilised soldiers in the community, an increasing gap between the rich and poor during the 1920's leading to the Great Depression, and we even had a pandemic. All conditions that apply right now. The AWM was only approved as a Depression era stimulus project in 1932 having been deprioritised due to the very real fears of creating a Right Wing Shrine. The fascists of the New Guard were a serious threat to public safety in the late 20's and early 30's and consisted overwhelmingly of demobilised soldiers. The last thing a responsible govt would do is pay for places for them to meet and establish a creation mythology of their movement.

And here we are in the 2020's. We have tens of thousands of demobilized soldiers in the community many of whom get jobs guarding 'sand niggers' [and other awful terms used by soldiers in the Middle East to describe the locals] in offshore detention facilities, furthering the radicalisation of all concerned. We have a large and growing gap between the rich and poor and a commensurate, confirmed threat of Right Wing extremism. The militarised, anti-immigrant theme of all governments since 2001 have emboldened the far Right. Alleged War Criminals are publicly defended by the same billionaire sponsor of this redevelopment. Have we forgotten the implications of the Brereton Report? Have we forgotten the Christchurch massacre already? ASIO is tipping Aussie fascists will host a home game in the next 12 months, and here we are pouring \$500m into a State sponsored monument to White Australian military exceptionalism at EXACTLY the time when we should be toning down this rhetoric. I will bet London to a brick there will be no room in the current or proposed AWM for Australian War Criminals, conscientious objectors, opposition-to-illegal-war figures like Andrew Wilkie and the persecution he suffered at the hands of the Murdoch press, and of course an honour role of veteran suicides.

If the AWM is not going to tell the whole story of the experience of war it should tell none at all and remain a place of solemn reflection on the waste of war as per its original design. It does not need expansion.

To EXPAND it in order to CELEBRATE Australian military adventurism at this time is irresponsible and a security threat. Not to mention a massive waste of money, a destruction of heritage and a denial of history.

Don't do it.

Mark

**From:** Tam Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 March 2021 9:38 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Block 3 Section 39 Campbell - Australian War memorial Hi,  
  
**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

My name is Tammy Jane Elizabeth Kelly [REDACTED]

I suggest the war memorial has a plaque stating all the fallen died due to government practice and government act a for a minority of cultural practices and religious practices.

Thankyou,

Tammy Jane Elizabeth Kelly

**From:** Bryant Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as an Australian citizen to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritized.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

The AWM is a memorial and should be kept as one. If you wish to show off historical military hardware upgrade the Mitchell facility and provide daily access to it.

Bryant Allen

[REDACTED]

**From:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** FW: Expansion of WMA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**From:** Muriel Brookfield  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 4:54 PM  
**To:** [development@wma.gov.au](mailto:development@wma.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Expansion of WMA

### **Submission on re-development of WMA**

I wish to register dissent to what appears to be the final proposed re-development to the WMA to take place almost immediately in this year 2021. The NCA have now shut their email site relevant to the early work on the site. Does this mean they are now going ahead? This would leave the bulk of the Australian public unaware as the full report on the AWM plan only became available on the internet just over one month ago. It has not been widely advertised and has not given the public sufficient time to catch up with its implications. I write as a 94 year old Australian citizen deeply concerned that this country's culture should be accurately presented both here and globally. To that end I'll itemise some of my concerns.

1. Australians prefer peace to war; they honour the dead but do not seek repetitious showing of weapons of war at their shrines. The present War Memorial is a splendid shrine to the fallen and is globally recognised. Its message is clear. There is no need to keep showing new weapons of war on site every few years in what one submission describes as an 'apparent vision of infinite expansion'. The LTOs (Large Technical Objects) such as the several aircraft and armoured vehicles more recently collected are best exhibited elsewhere.
2. What is lacking is acknowledgement of the human cost of loss to families and to surviving veterans and to the nation generally. With the almost limitless capacity of modern digital storage all human stories and more could be held in the existing Anzac Hall and made accessible in innovative ways. No valuable personal data need be lost and a valuable educational tool would be gained. Suitable reflection areas would be necessary.
3. The availability of this new resource should be sign-posted in the AWM. This could accompany a better-curated overhaul of some parts of the Main shrine.
4. All of this is achievable and without costing the over- half -a- million dollars required in the present suggested upgrade. Nor would there be a 9-year wait for completion.
5. No trees need be sacrificed and the calming environmental surrounds would remain, as also the magnificent vista across this heart of Canberra and Lake Burley Griffin to the seat of Government. There would be no interference of solid building blocks on the main site.
6. It would be unwise to ignore that there will be effects of the current hideous pandemic and future pandemics. And of the threatened world climate disaster. Most Australians recognise there will have to be a reckoning.

Over to you.

Muriel Brookfield



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**From:** Julie Doyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 3:44 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** EARLY WORKS APPROVAL - AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

**Categories:** Orange category

JULIE DOYLE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[WAconsultation@nca.gov.au](mailto:WAconsultation@nca.gov.au)

National Capital Authority  
GPO Box 373  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Mr A Smith  
Chief Planner

[REDACTED]  
Ms S Barnes, Chief Executive NCA

30 April 2021

#### WORKS APPROVAL – BLOCK 3, SECTION 39 CAMPBELL – AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

The following is in response to the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) Early Works proposal for the major redevelopment of one of Australia's most commemorative buildings.

- To describe the scope of works proposed as 'early' is totally inaccurate as they include demolition of major recent structures and the removal of a large number of significant mature trees which are 80 years old.
- In 1976 it was possible for families to walk around the Memorial in an afternoon and appreciate the significance and sacrifice of Australia's armed forces in world conflicts. By 2001 it had become a full day's task.
- The current redevelopment to include a vast collection of military hardware (incomprehensible to children) will destroy much of the national significance of providing the opportunity to reflect, remember and respect.
- The simplicity and dignity of the Anzac Day Dawn Service this year yet again displayed the sincerity and gratitude that Australians feel for our history – it needs no vast structure.

Let us hope that sound judgement will occur to stop this unnecessary creation of a behemoth and that the \$0.5 bn capital cost can be directed to former military personnel and others in need.

Yours sincerely,

JJ Doyle

**From:** Felix MacNeill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 2:34 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

I know that this is a form email but that's because I fully agree with its contents not because I don't care.

Felix MacNeill  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Allan Lohe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Australian War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Dear Sir/Madam,

**I wish to register my total opposition to the proposed redevelopment plans for the Australian War Memorial.**

This proposal is not properly thought out and in my view is an utter waste of what has been costed at a minimum of \$500 million. I'm appalled that the plans include demolishing of a building that is only 20 years old. Were those in charge of long term plans for the War Memorial in the 1990's incompetent? Why could not this have been planned at that time? Then there are mature trees that will be destroyed (of course to be "replanted") and valuable land on Mt Ainslie to be grabbed to extend carparks. I could go on but there is no point.

You proudly proclaim that you listen to the community but they are saying clearly that this proposal should not go ahead. There are much better ways to spend \$500 million on war veterans who desperately need funding, for suicide prevention and the like, for example. All in all, the public are aware of the lack of rational thought behind this proposal and the failure of the War Memorial to be open about its motives.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Allan Lohe  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Inadequate Consultation re 'Early works for the War Memorial redevelopment'  
  
**Categories:** Orange category

As a Canberra resident, an Australian with a keen interest in our cultural institutions, a daughter, mother and grandmother who has witnessed the impact of war, its representations in story, images and artefacts over some 7 decades, I am significantly disturbed regarding the proposed changes to the War Memorial.

I am particularly concerned that the designation as 'early works' misrepresents the extent of work that is being contemplated.

1. The consultations have been inadequate and the input from diverse sectors of the population poorly calibrated. Of the 167 submissions under the heritage provisions of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act on this project, 58 per cent opposed to the project. The government's own principle advisory body, the Australian Heritage Council, and the heritage experts in the Minister's department expressed serious concern at the heritage impacts of the plans.
2. The rationale for the changes has not been substantiated. There were 77 submissions to the PWC inquiry into the project, three-quarters of them opposed to the project. This was by far the largest number of submissions on a PWC inquiry since it first convened in 1913. Two members of the Committee lodged a dissenting report, rare in PWC history.
3. The early works should be immediately stopped. They are not 'early works'. If permitted, the site and building will already have been damaged beyond reclamation.
4. Any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, a proper documentation of the rational for the changes, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.
5. I also would argue that the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

**From:** Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** FW: HPE CM: Destruction of war memorial [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category  
**Record Number:** 445893

OFFICIAL

-----Original Message-----

From: Avis Gardner [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2021 7:00 AM  
To: Info <info@nca.gov.au>  
Subject: HPE CM: Destruction of war memorial

To whom it may concern

I have just heard of the early works planned for the unnecessary “upgrade” of the memorial site.

There is nothing that can make this an educated decision.

No one at this time could advocate for the destruction of healthy beautiful heritage trees which are relevant to the memory of our veterans. Saplings do nothing for those world war 2 veterans still alive and their descendants.

Also the amount of money spent on a completely unnecessary development which is unwanted and wanton destruction.

There are far more valuable projects for veterans for government to spend money on that would actually help them, rather than cause them more distress.

I don't know who dreamed up this terrible project but I implore you to see sense and re think before you make a terrible mistake which is what you will be remembered for.

Avis Gardner

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Helen Flaherty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 4:38 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** APPROVAL OF 'EARLY WORKS' FOR AWM EXPANSION

**Categories:** Orange category

### Precis

I am writing to record my strong disagreement with the possibility of approval of the so-called 'early works' of the proposed extensions to the Australian War Memorial on three grounds:

1. suitability for purpose;
2. need; and
3. that the early works, if done, effectively grant permission for the whole project to proceed.

### Suitability for purpose

The essential purposes for the existence of the AWM can be summarised as the three Rs: to enable us to remember, reflect and resolve (to do better).

The current Memorial is a dignified and sombre place which has been developed with specific areas of the AWM emphasising each of these purposes. The dioramas, for example, and the panels detailing the contribution of individuals during war service encourage us to broaden our knowledge and to remember, so that their contribution lives on long after their lives have ended. The Hall of Reflection epitomises the opportunity to reflect, the silence facilitating deeper thinking and allowing us to ponder the lives lost, the purposes of war and the heroism and experiences lived. The entire Memorial must encourage us to resolve to more carefully consider how we are using the freedoms which were so expensively gained by those willing to give their own lives or their health and sanity for the perceived common good, and to commit to better ways forward in terms of resolving conflict.

The expansion plans seem more about the development of research centres and a museum of military hardware than about fulfilling the functions of remembrance and reflection. While these functions have their place, it is not as part of the Australian War Memorial.

The scale of the proposed buildings will turn a wonderful gem of a building into a sprawling and less intimate series of spaces and will work against the three Rs, the values which should be upheld.

If the NCA approves the demolition of Anzac Hall and the removal of some 160 trees around the site, the site and the building will never be restored to the dignified and contemplative spaces which they are at present and our heritage will be lost.

### 2. Need

The current AWM meets the purposes necessary, but that is not to say that it should not be improved. The building is not always easy to navigate and, rather than focussing on expansion, the priority should be on making the current space more user friendly. While the maps and promotional materials distributed to visitors could be improved, the essential need is to improve signage and to make minor changes to internal walls and corridors so that visitors can easily reach their intended destinations.

We must always remember that many visitors are frail and aging, and for many, visits to the Memorial are emotionally charged as they recall loved ones who are no longer with them or who are with them but irrevocably changed by their war service in negative ways. In addition, visits made by ex-servicemen and

women themselves are with mixed emotions, and more seating and quiet spots have the potential to enhance their experience.

The need is for a more thoughtfully organised Memorial, not a substantially larger one. It is difficult to see that the demolition of ANZAC Hall will contribute in any positive way to enhancing the Memorial and the demolition is unnecessary.

### 3. Cost-effectiveness

Australian servicemen and women have long suffered from a lack of tangible appreciation of their sacrifices during war service, with many battling mental health issues or physical deformities on their return. Our funds would be better directed to supporting them in civilian life and, particularly, by ensuring that they have the best health care available and a living wage if they are unable to undertake paid work. In addition, we need to remember and support the families of those who have done war service as they have made significant contributions too eg by issuing all war widows and widowers of WWII veterans with gold cards to alleviate poverty, and providing financial assistance by way of scholarships for education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels to the children of veterans of war service whose parents died or are TPI, whether from physical or mental injuries.

Spending half a billion dollars, an enormous sum, on a 'white elephant' of a building and destroying its essential tranquillity and charm is misguided in the extreme and should not be contemplated. The NCA must objectively assess the proposal for 'early works' in the light of community expectations about the role and functions of the AWM, its heritage value and its abhorrence of the prospect of further creating public spaces which glorify the tools of war and benefit (and perhaps encourage) the international businesses which profit from war, by sanitising the technology and presenting it as a series of items for wonder.

### Summary

People reflecting on war service and war memorials do so in the context of their lived experience, particularly in the lives of their families and with friends. When I look at my own family, my father served in PNG during WWII, enlisting as an 18 year old, and my father-in-law served in Borneo. Both had health problems for the remainder of their lives. All of my uncles bar one also served overseas during that war - the exception was the youngest uncle, born during the Great Depression - and all bore lifelong scars but were proud that they had served their families and their country.

My oldest cousin was a conscript in Vietnam and my brother had a career in the RAAF, which included service in theatres of war like Afghanistan, Iraq and PNG.

A great hall of military hardware and aircraft will not enhance our appreciation of their contribution, and that of thousands of other Australians. Rather it will be an expensive indulgence which will destroy the character of the Australian War Memorial. It is hard to see the proposal as other than empire building and a shocking devaluation of a War Memorial which has been treasured since its inception.

It behoves the NCA to disallow the proposal to approve 'early works' to facilitate this desecration of a wonderful site and building, and create a tribute to Mammon rather than to the courageous and committed Australians who were prepared to put their lives on the line for our freedom.

Submission by : Ms Helen Flaherty





ReplyForward

**From:** Gary Fan  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 3:05 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Stop the Australian War Memorial redevelopment  
**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

Dear NCA,

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the Australian War Memorial, and the entire redevelopment proposed costing almost \$500 million. Surely these funds can go to a better use in this day of Covid-19 than to prop up war machine companies who wish to advertise their wares? This money would be much better spent to increase the JobSeeker payment

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue and corporate sponsorship should cease completely, or at least be fully open and transparent with all donations publicly available on the AWM website.

I'm cc'ing the ACT's elected representatives in the hopes they will also heed the call of the community to lobby for the redevelopment to stop.

Sincerely,

Gary Fan  
[REDACTED]



**Community Consultation – Block 3 Section 39 Campbell  
Australian War Memorial – Early Works Approval Application  
April 2021**

Comments by The ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the Australian Garden History Society

The Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) is a national community based organisation that promotes awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes. There are Branches in all area of Australia and this comment comes from the local Canberra Branch.

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra, located in a well-treed setting at the base of Mount Ainslie, and as part of the Parliament House Vista, is an important cultural landscape within the central designed landscape of the National Capital. It has been acknowledged as such by inclusion on the National Heritage List.

It is also highly valued by the residents of Canberra, both for its symbolic role as a memorial and as an important and much loved Canberra landmark at the terminal of Anzac Parade and at the foot of Mt Ainslie.

The AWM in its existing landscape setting has outstanding important aesthetic significance and I wish to make the following comments on the proposed redevelopment that will see over 100 trees removed from the site in order to make way for a new exhibition hall and altered front access to the building.

Firstly and importantly the process of restructuring the AWM and its surrounds should be assessed as a complete project. The current piecemeal process of approvals is disingenuous in meeting the development aims of increasing visitor numbers at the site rather than retaining the significance of the place through conservation of fabric, including the immediate landscaped setting. Contrary to claims in favour of the development, it is not possible to “enhance” heritage significance. Heritage values are present or not, and cannot be manufactured – otherwise any site could be made to become “heritage”. Using the “enhancement” argument to support the proposed development is spurious.

Also the documentation provided for effective comment is incomplete. There are claims in the Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) that a landscape architect has had input to the planning, but no report on any landscape heritage assessment is tendered. The HIS report (p25) even admits that no investigation (archival or physical) of previous landscape work has been undertaken. Best practice heritage conservation requires such a study to properly inform and mitigate the type of drastic landscape modifications currently proposed so that heritage values are not adversely affected.

Has there been any update to the understanding of the cultural values, especially the aesthetic values, of the immediate landscape setting of the AWM since the 2011 Heritage Management Plan? Surely such an investigation is crucial to the current approvals process?

The proposed landscape design for redevelopment is also missing, so full comment on the proposal is made impossible.

The argument for significant tree removals in the documentation provided appears to rest on insufficient study, analysis and assessment of the surrounding landscape and a resultant listing that inadequately protects the landscape. Heritage values can only be protected if they are fully understood and to proceed with the proposal without this knowledge would be to risk destroying or diminishing the National Heritage values of the AWM.

The immediate well-planted setting of the AWM is designed to integrate the building with its wider landscape setting of the lower slopes of Mt Ainslie as a terminal point of the land axis of the Parliament House Vista. The vegetation cover sympathetically frames the AWM against Mt Ainslie and leads the eye up from the end of Anzac Parade (named Memorial Parade in the heritage listing) with angled tree plantings channelling the view up either side of the parade ground to the memorial entrance. The existing pathways either side of the parade ground reinforce this planned and planted design intent.

The current proposal to remove mature trees and redesign the parade ground and paths destroys this designed landscape and diminishes the designed landscape values of the place.

The loss of so many trees around the AWM will also have detrimental effect to the bush setting of the place, and to the wider urban forest of Canberra as if the AWM was not part of a wider local landscape of importance.

The proposal report assesses trees individually, and only in natural heritage terms, mainly whether they are remnant naturally occurring specimens or planted ones indigenous to the locality. This limited assessment overlooks their wider contribution as a *mixed group planting* to the aesthetics of the AWM's immediate surrounding cultural landscape. Not to mention as wildlife habitats and in relation to retention of trees in the current age of climate change.

The proposal to remove over 100 trees at the site adversely affects the aesthetic qualities of the landscape surrounds the building currently rests amongst. It also risks isolating the AWM from its surrounding bush setting while also removing an important buffer zone to suburbia and encircling roads. Even with partial replacement of new trees (inevitably small saplings by comparison) the precinct birdlife, along with their evocative calls – bird song of magpies and calls of cockatoos; just those sounds that Australian forces in the overseas theatre of war would have recalled with nostalgia – will be reduced for years to come.

In short the designed plantings of the trees surrounding the AWM are part of a designed landscape setting of diverse aesthetic values, and integral to the unique Australian nature of *the spirit of the place* and its contemplative memorial function.

We consider that the proposed removal of so many trees at the AWM would conclusively harm the significance of the AWM as a place on the National Heritage list. The loss of the surrounding native trees, and the birds that visit them in the AWM's definitive character landscape, will have an adverse impact in relation to its identity as the "Australian" national memorial to those fallen in conflict.

In the view of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch of the AGHS that the development as proposed should not be approved by the NCA until a full assessment of the cultural values, especially the aesthetic values, of the immediate landscape setting of the AWM has been undertaken by an independent unbiased consultant and the findings integrated into a project and made public.

Margie Bourke  
Chair

27 April 2021

WAconsultation@nca.gov.au

**From:** Allen Mawer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** War Memorial Extension

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

Sir

The AWM is not a theme park for the display of retired military equipment, some of which never saw a shot fired in anger. The current proposal is disrespectful in the extreme to the purpose of the Memorial. My father, whose name appears on the roll of honour, would be appalled.

G A Mawer

**From:** Kristen Pratt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 25 April 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

**From:** David Hermolin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 6:59 PM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Please ensure community consultation and ancient tree preservation before any early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

Hello,

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my concern with early works proposed at the War Memorial.

I believe that the early works should be immediately stopped, that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation, and the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritised.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
David

Acknowledging and respecting that I live, work and play on unceded Ngunnawal Ngambri land. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

**From:** Angelika & Chris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Stop the early works for the War Memorial redevelopment

**Categories:** Orange category, Green category

I am writing as a resident of Canberra to express my opposition to the proposed enlargement of the Australian War Memorial. And because the National Capital Authority has not yet approved this redevelopment I am especially opposed to the early works that are apparently about to begin and which involve the cutting down of eucalyptus trees planned at the time of the establishment of the Memorial.

The AWM was created as a memorial - not as a museum or theme park. The only thing that needs to be added as Australia involves itself in yet more wars is space for the names of those who have given their lives (including by losing them) to the protection of Australia. A war museum should be housed elsewhere.

Furthermore, I believe that the early works should be stopped immediately; that any further redevelopment must involve thorough community consultation; and that the preservation of the ancient eucalypts that surround the area should be prioritized.

I also believe the NCA should release a response to all submissions it receives on this issue.

Chris Ansted

**From:** Angelika Dunker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 April 2021 11:18 AM  
**To:** Works Approval Consultation  
**Subject:** Earthworks at Australian War Memorial

**Categories:** Green category, Orange category

I am a concerned citizen of Australia and resident of Canberra.

I am deeply concerned about the whole project to expand the Memorial to accommodate more machinery from more recent wars. The purpose of a memorial is to focus our attention on the people who sacrificed their lives for the good of others and so the focus should remain on those people, however widely defined - the families back home also made sacrifices to support those who went overseas. To fill the place with machinery will just distract from those people.

And where does it end; if we have aircraft and tanks, do we need a ship - a destroyer or frigate? To show the absurdity of the thinking behind this expansion I ask whether we should replace the whole memorial with our former aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne and place the whole current building within it - scaled down if necessary? By all means build a separate war museum somewhere in Canberra, but leave the current memorial as it is. Stories, photos and films of the pain and suffering our service men and women experienced - including as a result of PTSD after their return home - would be a more appropriate addition to the memorial than bits of hardware.

And my opposition to this travesty of an attempt to honour those who gave so much also extends to the earthworks which will involve the destruction of around 160 fully mature trees that are an important part of the overall site of the memorial. The grounds around a memorial make an essential contribution to the effect that the memorial has on visitors' appreciation of what is being remembered. The grounds prepare people mentally for contemplation and reflection.

Please do not desecrate this beautiful building and its setting. Bigger is often not better.

Angelika Dunker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]